

In The Claims

Please cancel claims 1 – 8 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the invention recited therein.

Please add claims 9 – 17 as follows:

9. (New) A method of sealing a hard shell capsule having coaxial body parts which overlap when telescopically joined, the method comprising the steps of:
holding the capsule in a precise and upright position;
injecting a quantity of sealing fluid in the overlap of the body parts; and
releasing the capsule.

10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein an excess of sealing fluid is removed from the outside of the capsule.

11. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the excess of sealing fluid is removed from a clamp holding the capsule in the upright position.

12. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein an excess of sealing fluid is removed from a clamp holding the capsule in the upright position.

13. (New) An apparatus for sealing a hard shell capsule having coaxial body parts which overlap when telescopically joined, the apparatus comprising:
a sealing clamp to hold the capsule in an upright position; and
means to inject a sealing fluid in the overlap of the body parts.

14. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the means to inject the sealing fluid are injection ports in the sealing clamp.

15. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the sealing clamp comprises liquid recovery grooves.

16. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the sealing clamp comprises an airing and a suction port.

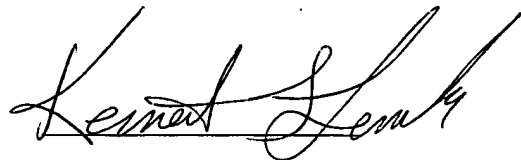
17. (New) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the sealing clamp has a liquid injection groove.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Date

March 8, 2004

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Lemke", written over a horizontal line.

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